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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
(SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION)

In re: Bextra and Celebrex Marketing Sales  
Practices and Product Liability Litigation

MDL No. 1699

District Judge: Charles R. Breyer  
Magistrate:

DANA CHIN, individually and on  
behalf of TATE McALLISTER,  
deceased,

Plaintiff,

v.

PFIZER, INC., PHARMACIA CORP., and  
G.D. SEARLE & CO.,

Defendants.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

CIVIL COMPLAINT

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

DANA CHIN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of TATE McALLISTER, deceased, Plaintiff, through counsel and pursuant to applicable law and Nevada's Wrongful Death Act, by and through counsel, brings this action against Defendants PFIZER, INC., PHARMACIA CORP., and G.D. SEARLE & CO. (hereafter "Defendants") and alleges as follows:

1       **I. PARTIES**

2               1.       This is an action for damages arising from Defendants' design,  
3 manufacture, sale, testing, marketing, advertising, promotion, and/or distribution of the unsafe  
4 medication Celecoxib, trade name CELEBREX® ("Celebrex").

5               2.       Plaintiff and decedent were at all relevant times adult resident citizens of  
6 the State of Nevada. Decedent, Tate McAllister, was, during his life, a resident of Washoe  
7 County and the Plaintiff, Dana Chin, is a resident of Washoe County. Plaintiff, Dana Chin, is the  
8 Personal Representative of the decedent's estate, is a resident of Nevada, and is the proper party  
9 to bring this claim on behalf of the Estate and survivors of decedent. At the time of decedent's  
10 death, decedent left no surviving parents and five siblings: Margaret Renners, Edna McCraw,  
11 Pauline Rodgers, Dorothy Davidson, and Virginia Smith.

12              3.       Defendant Pfizer, Inc. ("Pfizer") is a Delaware corporation with its  
13 principal place of business in New York, New York. In 2003, Pfizer acquired Pharmacia for  
14 nearly \$60 billion. At all relevant times Pfizer and/or its predecessors in interest were engaged in  
15 the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, packaging, marketing, distributing, promoting,  
16 and selling the drug Celecoxib, under the trade name Celebrex in California, Nevada and  
17 nationwide.

18              4.       Defendant Searle ("Searle") is a Delaware corporation with its principal  
19 place of business in Illinois. At all relevant times, Searle has been engaged in the business of  
20 marketing and selling CELEBREX nationwide and in California and Nevada. Searle is a  
21 subsidiary of Pfizer, acting as its agent and alter ego in all matters alleged within this Complaint.

22              5.       Defendant Pharmacia ("Pharmacia") is a Delaware corporation with its  
23 principal place of business in New Jersey. At all relevant times, Pharmacia, and its predecessors  
24 in interest have been engaged in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, packaging,  
25 marketing, distributing, promoting, and selling Celebrex nationwide and in California and  
26 Nevada.

27              6.       Celebrex was developed by Pharmacia Corp. ("Pharmacia"). Searle and  
28 Pharmacia are now both subsidiaries of Pfizer Inc. ("Pfizer").

## II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This is an action for damages, which exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00).

8. There is complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiff and Defendants. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1332 (diversity jurisdiction) because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, and because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendants.

9. Venue is proper in the District of Nevada, Reno Division ("the District") pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1391. Defendants marketed, advertised and distributed the dangerous product in the district, thereby receiving substantial financial benefit and profits the dangerous product in this district, and reside in this district under 28 U.S.C.A. § 1391(c), such that venue is proper.

10. At all relevant times herein, Defendants were in the business of designing, manufacturing, marketing, developing, testing, labeling, promoting, distributing, warranting and selling their product, Celebrex. Defendants at all times relevant hereto designed, developed, manufactured, promoted, marketed, distributed, tested, warranted and sold in interstate commerce (including California and Nevada) the aforementioned prescription drug. Defendants do substantial business in the State of Nevada and within the District, advertise in the district, receive substantial compensation and profits from sales of Celebrex in the District, and made material omissions and misrepresentations and breaches of warranties in the District so as to subject them to *in personam* jurisdiction in the District. In engaging in the conduct alleged herein each defendant acted as the agent for each of the other defendants, or those defendant's predecessors in interest.

## III. INTERDISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

11. Assignment to the San Francisco Division is proper as this action is related to *In Re: Bextra and Celebrex Marketing Sales Prac. and Pro. Liab. Lit.*, MDL-1699, assigned to the Honorable Charles R. Breyer by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation on September 6, 2005.

1 **IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

2 **A. Facts Regarding Plaintiff**

3 12. Decedent was prescribed, and began taking, Celebrex on or about  
4 September 30, 2002.

5 13. As a direct and proximate result of using Celebrex, Decedent suffered  
6 severe cardiovascular injuries. Specifically, on or about January 24, 2005, Decedent suffered an  
7 acute myocardial infarction (“heart attack”), which caused Plaintiff’s death on or about July 27,  
8 2007.

9 14. Unaware of the risks presented by Celebrex, or that Celebrex was the cause  
10 of his injuries, Decedent continued to take Celebrex until January 24, 2005.

11 15. Decedent and Decedent’s healthcare providers were at the time of  
12 Decedent’s heart attack and initial injury unaware—and could not have reasonably known or have  
13 learned through reasonable diligence—that such injury directly resulted from Defendants’  
14 negligent and otherwise culpable acts, omissions, and misrepresentations or from Decedent’s  
15 ingestion of Celebrex.

16 16. Decedent used Celebrex in a proper and reasonably foreseeable manner  
17 and used it in a condition that was substantially the same as the condition in which it was  
18 manufactured and sold.

19 17. Decedent would not have used Celebrex had Defendants properly disclosed  
20 the risks associated with the drug.

21 **B. Facts Regarding Celebrex: Science and other Cox-2 Inhibitors**

22 18. Celebrex is one of a class of pain medications called non-steroidal anti-  
23 inflammatory drugs (“NSAIDs”). Aspirin, naproxen (trade name Aleve), and ibuprofen (trade  
24 name Advil) are examples of well-known NSAIDs.

25 19. NSAIDs reduce pain by blocking the body’s production of pain  
26 transmission enzymes called cyclo-oxygenase or “COX.” There are two forms of COX  
27 enzymes—COX-1 and COX-2. Aspirin, naproxen and ibuprofen all act by blocking COX-1 and  
28 COX-2 enzymes.



1           20. In addition to decreasing inflammation, the prostaglandins that are  
2 supported by COX-1 enzymes are involved in the production of gastric mucus; this protects the  
3 stomach wall from the hydrochloric acid present in the stomach. It is generally accepted in the  
4 medical community that by blocking the COX-1 enzyme, the body's ability to protect gastric  
5 tissue is hampered and as a result, can cause harmful gastrointestinal side effects, including  
6 stomach ulceration and bleeding.

7           21. Prostaglandin I2 is the predominant cyclooxygenase product in  
8 endothelium, inhibiting platelet aggregation (preventing clot formation), causing vasodilation,  
9 and preventing the proliferation of vascular smooth muscle. Whereas older NSAIDS inhibit  
10 Thromboxane A2 and Prostaglandin I2, the COX-2 inhibitors leave Thromboxane A2 unaffected.  
11 Thromboxane A2 is a potent platelet aggregator and vasoconstrictor which is synthesized by  
12 platelets. Therefore, while the older NSAIDS suppress platelet aggregation and vasoconstriction,  
13 the COX-2 inhibitors support it.

14           22. Traditional NSAIDs like aspirin reduce pain/inflammation and therefore  
15 pain by inhibiting both COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes simultaneously. As would be expected,  
16 traditional NSAIDs may cause ulcers in the stomach. However, traditional NSAIDs do not cause  
17 blood clots, rather they actually reduce the risk of clots and help protect heart function.

18           23. Defendants and other pharmaceutical companies set out to remedy these  
19 ulcer and bleeding problems suffered by some NSAID users by developing "selective" inhibitors  
20 that would block only COX-2 production, thus (supposedly) allowing the proper maintenance of  
21 gastric tissue while still reducing inflammation.

22           24. In making this decision, Defendants and their predecessors in interest either  
23 intentionally ignored or recklessly disregarded current medical knowledge that selective COX-2  
24 inhibition lowers prostacyclin levels and causes thromboxane A<sub>2</sub> to be uninhibited, causing blood  
25 clots, and giving rise to various clot-related cardiovascular events, including heart attack, stroke,  
26 unstable angina. The vasoconstriction and fluid retention cause the hypertension.

27           25. Pfizer launched Celebrex, the first of the three major COX-2 inhibitor  
28 drugs, in January 1999 and initiated a massive marketing campaign to convince doctors and

1 consumers of the superiority of their new “blockbuster” drug over less inexpensive NSAIDs. In  
2 May, 1999, Merck & Co., Inc. (“Merck”) launched Vioxx, its own selective COX-2 inhibitor.

3 26. Seeking increased market share in this extremely lucrative market,  
4 Defendants, and their predecessors in interest, also sought approval of a “second generation”  
5 selective COX-2 inhibitor and filed for FDA approval of Valdecoxib (Bextra) on January 16,  
6 2001 for the (i) prevention and treatment of acute pain, (ii) treatment of primary dysmenorrhea,  
7 and (iii) relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and adult rheumatoid arthritis.

8 **C. Facts Regarding Celebrex’s Safety and Defendants’ Knowledge Thereof**

9 27. The potential for cardiovascular risk of selective COX-2 inhibitors was  
10 known to Defendants long before the market launch. By 1997, and prior to the submission of the  
11 New Drug Application (the “NDA”) for Celebrex, Defendants was aware that, by inhibiting  
12 COX-2, Celebrex altered the homeostatic balance between prostacyclin synthesis and  
13 thromboxane and thereby, increased the prothrombotic effects of the drugs, causing blood clots to  
14 form in those who ingested it. *See* Topol, E.J., *et al.*, *Risk of Cardiovascular Events Associated*  
15 *with Selective Cox-2 Inhibitors*, *JAMA*, August 22, 2001 at 954.

16 28. As Pharmacologist, Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, of the University of  
17 Pennsylvania, reported in an editorial published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on  
18 October 21, 2004, that it was known as early as 1999 that selective COX-2 inhibitors, such as  
19 Celebrex, suppressed the formation of prostaglandin I-2 in healthy volunteers, inhibited platelet  
20 aggregation in vitro, and may predispose patients to myocardial infarction or thrombotic stroke.

21 29. Based on the studies performed on Celebrex, other COX-2 inhibitors, and  
22 basic research on this type of selective inhibitor which had been widely conducted, Defendants  
23 knew when Celebrex was being developed and tested that selective COX-2 inhibitors posed  
24 serious cardiovascular risks for anyone who took them, and presented a specific additional threat  
25 to anyone with existing heart disease or cardiovascular risk factors. Studies show that selective  
26 COX-2 inhibitors, including Celebrex, decrease blood levels of a prostacyclin. When those levels  
27 fall, the arteries are more vulnerable to clotting, high blood pressure, heart attack, and stroke.  
28

30. Despite years of studies on selective COX-2 inhibitors, as well as the disturbing new studies specifically analyzing the risks of Celebrex, Defendants failed to take any action to protect the health and welfare of patients, but instead, continued to promote the drug for sale even after the FDA's Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee and Arthritis Drug Advisory Committee meetings.

**1. Celebrex and Cox-2 Studies Did Not Show Celebrex to be Safe**

31. The defendants touted the Celebrex Long-Term Arthritis Safety Study ("CLASS") as the primary evidence to support its theory that Celebrex was safer for consumers that could not tolerate traditional NSAIDs in their gastrointestinal system. (CLASS data is found in NDA 20-998/S-009 submitted to the FDA by G.D. Searle on June 12, 2000. CLASS was submitted to the FDA on June 12, 2000 and reviewed by James Witter, M.D., Ph.D. (FDA Medical Officer) on September 20, 2000.)

**2. CLASS**

32. The FDA Medical Officer Review of the CLASS data proves Celebrex is no more efficacious than other traditional NSAIDs and is harmful to consumers. See generally, FDA Medical Officer Review, NDA 20-998/S-009 submitted to the FDA by G.D. Searle on June 12, 2000 ("FDA CLASS Review"). On April 7, 2005, the FDA issued an *Alert* noting only minimal information is available regarding Celebrex: "The only available data from a long term comparison of Celebrex to other NSAIDs came from the CLASS study...."

33. Pfizer misrepresented the data in CLASS by using biased authors. According to the *Washington Post* the CLASS authors were either employees of Pharmacia, Celebrex's manufacturer, or paid consultants of the company. Pfizer needed a study to demonstrate that its Cox-2 inhibitor was safer for the stomach than older cheaper medications: CLASS was designed to be that study. Unfortunately, the results of the completed study revealed the truth – Celebrex offered no gastrointestinal (GI) benefit. Instead of releasing the complete – 12-month – results from CLASS, Pfizer had only the first six months of data published in the *Journal of American Medicine*. JAMA 2000,48:1455-1460.



1           34.     “After reviewing the full study, the FDA’s arthritis advisory committee  
2 concluded that Celebrex offers no proven safety advantage over the two older drugs in reducing  
3 the risk of ulcer complications, said FDA spokesman Susan Cruzan.” *Washington Post*, August 5,  
4 2001. According to the FDA’s review of the CLASS data: “Celecoxib did not demonstrate any  
5 statistical superiority to NSAIDs (pooled) or either comparator (diclofenac and ibuprofen) with  
6 regards to the primary safety endpoint of CSUGIE (Clinically Significant Upper Gastrointestinal  
7 Adverse Events) at any point in the trial although there were trends that favored celecoxib” (FDA  
8 CLASS Review)

9           35.     According to an August 5, 2001 article in the *Washington Post*, editors of  
10 the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and other medical experts, “were  
11 flabbergasted” when they realized they had been duped by only being provided with the first six  
12 months of CLASS data. The Washington Post reported JAMA editors as saying: “When all of the  
13 data were considered, most of Celebrex’s apparent safety advantage disappeared.”

14           36.     The “scientific double-cross” boosted sales. “[T]he JAMA article and  
15 editorial have likely contributed to Celebrex’s huge sales. ‘When the JAMA article comes out and  
16 confirms the hype, that probably has more impact than our labeling does,’ said Robert J. Temple,  
17 director of medical policy at the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.” *Washington*  
18 *Post*, August 5, 2001.

19           37.     “A total of 36 deaths occurred during the [CLASS] study or during post  
20 study follow-up: 19 in the celecoxib group, 9 in the diclofenac group and 8 in the ibuprofen  
21 group . . . . Most deaths were cardiovascular in nature.” FDA CLASS Review, at 54. The  
22 increased number of adverse cardiovascular events in the Celebrex group were not surprising as  
23 they were also revealed in the original New Drug Application (NDA) submitted for Celebrex. “In  
24 the original NDA, myocardial infarction was noted to occur at a higher rate in celecoxib-treated  
25 as compared to placebo treated patients. In the long term trial (Trial 024) that was included in the  
26 NDA submission, the predominate (>90%) cause of death for patients taking celecoxib at any  
27 does was cardiovascular.” FDA CLASS Review at 78.

28           38.     Public Citizen, a public watchdog organization, reviewed the CLASS data



1 in its entirety. A complete review reveals the combined anginal adverse events was 1.4% in  
 2 celecoxib (Celebrex) group versus 1.0% in either NSAID group. Specifically, the rate of heart  
 3 attack in the Celebrex was double that of the other two NSAIDs, 0.2% vs. 0.1%, respectively.

4 39. The CLASS data proves that Pfizer knew that its first generation Cox-2  
 5 inhibitor, Celebrex, caused a disproportionately and statistically significantly high number of  
 6 adverse cardiovascular events before it was introduced to the market in January 1999. According  
 7 to Public Citizen, after CLASS, the FDA recommended a trial to specifically assess the CV risk  
 8 of COX-2 inhibitors. The Adenoma Prevention with Celecoxib (APC) trial was intended to be  
 9 this placebo-controlled trial of Celebrex.

### 10 3. APC Trial

11 40. The Adenoma Prevention with Celecoxib (APC) trial compared the  
 12 efficacy and safety of celecoxib with placebo. N.ENG. J. MED. 352;11 at 1072. According to the  
 13 APC trial, the number of deaths from cardiovascular causes was significantly higher in the  
 14 Celebrex group when compared to placebo. (0.1% placebo; 0.4% Celebrex 200mg; and 0.9%  
 15 Celebrex 400mg). Id. at 1075.

16 41. The FDA Reported the APC data as follows<sup>1</sup>:

17 In the National Cancer Institute's Adenoma Prevention with  
 18 Celecoxib (APC) trial in patients at risk for recurrent colon polyps,  
 19 a 2-3 fold increased risk of serious adverse CV events was seen for  
 20 Celebrex compared to placebo after a mean duration of treatment of  
 21 33 months. There appeared to be a dose response relationship, with  
 22 a hazard ratio of 2.5 for Celebrex 200 mg twice daily and 3.4  
 23 Celebrex 400 mg twice daily for the composite endpoint of death  
 24 from CV causes, myocardial infarction (MI), or stroke.

25 42. The dosage noted in the study is important for two reasons: first, there  
 26 appears to be an association between dosage and the increase in adverse cardiovascular events.  
 27 See generally, at 1077. Second, most patients increase dosage. Pfizer knew patients were  
 28 increasing their dosages as noted in CLASS: "Interestingly ... up to 70% of patients increased  
 their dose for celecoxib." FDA CLASS Review at 74. Thus, Pfizer was aware of the dosage  
 creep.

<sup>1</sup> April 7, 2005 FDA Alert: [www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/celebrex/celebrex-hcp.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/celebrex/celebrex-hcp.htm).

1                   **4.     Other Celebrex Trials**

2                   43.     Several other Celebrex trials also gave Defendants insight into the  
3 cardiovascular risks presented by Celebrex. The Prevention of Spontaneous Adenomatous Polyps  
4 (PreSAP) trial identified the death rate from cardiovascular causes (heart attack, stroke, heart  
5 failure, angina, or need for CV procedure) as 3.6% with Celebrex as compared to 2.7% for  
6 placebo.

7                   44.     Public Citizen also reviewed the results of Study IQ IQ5-97-02-001 which  
8 reflected “the combined rate of all serious cardiovascular adverse events in patients getting a  
9 placebo was 2.1% but was greatly increased in those getting celecoxib to 7.7%, a 3.6 fold  
10 increase in CV risk in those people taking celecoxib. (p=0.03)”<sup>2</sup>. According to Dr. Sidney Wolfe,  
11 “The study revealed a significantly increased rate (3.6-fold) of serious CV adverse events and  
12 more than a doubling in the rate of CV deaths in people using celecoxib compared to those using  
13 placebo.”<sup>3</sup>

14                   **5.     Cox-2 Studies: VIGOR and APPROVe**

15                   45.     Pfizer also had access to other data which indicated a cardiovascular risk  
16 with its drugs. Specifically, Pfizer had knowledge of two studies conducted by Merck related to  
17 its Cox-2 inhibitor Vioxx – Vioxx Gastrointestinal Outcomes Research (VIGOR) and  
18 Adenomatous Polyp Prevention (APPROVe).

19                   **a.     VIGOR**

20                   46.     In 2000, The FDA Medical Officer Review of CLASS specifically noted  
21 the VIGOR trial and the concern over serious adverse cardiovascular events. FDA CLASS  
22 Review at 78.

23                   47.     According to VIGOR (near acronym for Vioxx Gastrointestinal Outcomes  
24 Research) Vioxx patients experienced 20% more serious clinical adverse events (statistically  
25 significant); they experienced 4.6 times more hypertension events serious enough to warrant  
26 discontinuation, 1.7 times more edema events, and 1.85 times as many congestive heart failure  
27

28 <sup>2</sup> *Public Citizen*, January 26, 2005, Dr. Sidney M. Wolfe.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

1 adverse events. By two measures of cardiovascular events related to blood clots, Vioxx had twice  
2 the risk of naproxen and the results were considered statistically significant.

3 48. The VIGOR study comprised the most definitive scientific evidence ever  
4 obtained about pharmaceutical products. It was a large, randomized clinical trial, the gold  
5 standard of medical research. It was a safety study with endpoints set in advance. As Merck  
6 stated many times, it was designed to provide definite proof of safety, convincing enough to  
7 silence the most skeptical critics. In medical terms, the VIGOR results raised the question of  
8 whether selective inhibition of Cox-2 was a monumental mistake from the start. While the  
9 NSAID risks to the GI system were real and sometimes fatal, they were dwarfed by the  
10 cardiovascular risks of the arthritis population that needed these drugs on a daily basis. All  
11 makers of NSAIDs, including Defendants, were aware of these results.

12 **b. APPROVe**

13 49. Anxious to put safety questions surrounding Vioxx to rest, Merck designed  
14 another large scale trial, Adenomatous Polyp Prevention (APPROVe), which was intended to test  
15 the drug's ability to prevent or shrink colon polyps, but would also compare the cardiovascular  
16 safety of Vioxx to a placebo control. According to the analysis conducted by Public Citizen of  
17 the APPROVe data: Vioxx "doubled the risk of any thrombotic cardiovascular event" and  
18 "doubled the risk of MI (myocardial infarction a/k/a heart attack)<sup>4</sup>. *Public Citizen*, January 24,  
19 2005, at 15. Despite the available Celebrex data and other information related to Vioxx, Pfizer  
20 never paused to re-evaluating the Celebrex data and studies.

21 50. The scientific data available during and after Celebrex's approval process  
22 made clear to Defendants that their formulation of Celebrex would cause a higher risk of blood  
23 clots, stroke and/or myocardial infarctions among Celebrex consumers, alerting them to the need  
24 to do additional and adequate safety studies.

25  
26  
27 <sup>4</sup> Although Merck claims that the two-fold risk of heart attacks and strokes seen in the APPROVe trial did not  
28 emerge until after patients had been taking the drug for 18 months, closer analysis indicates that significant increase  
in risk of heart attack was evident in as little as 4 months time.

1           51. As stated by Dr. Topol on October 21, 2004, in *The New England Journal*  
2 *of Medicine*, outlining Defendants' failure to have conducted the necessary trials before  
3 marketing to humans "... it is mandatory to conduct a trial specifically assessing cardiovascular  
4 risk and benefit of (COX-2 inhibitors). Such a trial needed to be conducted in patients with  
5 established coronary artery disease, who frequently have coexisting osteoarthritis requiring  
6 medication and have the highest risk of further cardiovascular events."

7           52. Dr. Topol was also the author on the study published in August 2001 in  
8 JAMA (listed above) that reported an increased risk of thrombotic cardiovascular events in  
9 persons who used COX-2 inhibitors.

10           53. Based upon readily available scientific data, Defendants knew, or should  
11 have known, that their pre-approval testing of Celebrex did not adequately represent the cross-  
12 section of individuals who were intended consumers and therefore, likely to take Celebrex.  
13 Therefore, Defendants' testing and studies were grossly inadequate.

14           54. Had Defendants done adequate testing prior to approval and "market  
15 launch," rather than the extremely short duration studies done on the small size patient base that  
16 was actually done the defendants' scientific data would have revealed significant increases in  
17 incidence of strokes and myocardial infarctions among the intended and targeted population of  
18 Celebrex consumers. Adequate testing would have shown that Celebrex possessed serious side  
19 effects. Defendants should have taken appropriate measures to ensure that their defectively  
20 designed product would not be placed in the stream of commerce and/or should have provided  
21 full and proper warnings accurately and fully reflecting the scope and severity of symptoms of  
22 those side effects should have been made.

23           55. In fact, post-market approval data did reveal increased risks of clotting,  
24 stroke and myocardial infarction, but this information was intentionally suppressed by Defendants  
25 in order for them to gain significant profits from continued Celebrex sales.

26           56. Defendants' failure to conduct adequate testing and/or additional testing  
27 prior to "market launch" was based upon their desire to generate maximum financial gains for  
28



1 themselves and to gain a significant market share in the lucrative multi-billion dollar COX-2  
2 inhibitor market.

3 57. At the time Defendants manufactured, advertising, and distributed  
4 Celebrex to consumers, Defendants intentionally or recklessly ignored and/or withheld  
5 information regarding the increased risks of hypertension, stroke and/or myocardial infarctions  
6 because Defendants knew that if such increased risks were disclosed, consumers would not  
7 purchase Celebrex, but instead would purchase other cheaper and safer NSAIDs.

8 **D. Facts Regarding Defendants' Marketing and Sale of Celebrex**

9 58. Such an ineffective and unreasonably dangerous drug could only be widely  
10 prescribed as a result of a tremendous marketing campaign. In addition to being aggressive, the  
11 Defendants' marketing campaign was fraudulent and misleading. But for fraudulent and  
12 misleading advertising, consumers, including the decedent, would not have purchased Celebrex, a  
13 more costly prescriptive drug, ineffective for its intended purposes.

14 59. On January 10, 2005 the FDA issued Pfizer a written reprimand for its  
15 promotional activities. The reprimand reads: "These five promotional pieces [3 Celebrex and 2  
16 Bextra] variously: omit material facts ... and make misleading safety, unsubstantiated superiority,  
17 and unsubstantiated effectiveness claims." This was not the Defendants first offense related to its  
18 Cox-2 inhibitors. The FDA also reprimanded Pfizer on October 6, 1999 noting: "DDMAC has  
19 reviewed these promotional pieces and has determined that they are false or misleading because  
20 they contain unsubstantiated comparative claims, misrepresentations of Celebrex's safety profile,  
21 and are lacking in fair balance." Ultimately, on April 8, 2005, the New York Times reported the  
22 results of an FDA advisory panel: "The February advisory panel voted overwhelmingly that the  
23 company should never again advertise the drug [Celebrex]."

24 60. At all times relevant herein, Defendants engaged in a marketing campaign  
25 with the intent that consumers would perceive Celebrex as a safer and better drug than its other  
26 NSAIDs and, therefore, purchase Celebrex.

27 61. Defendants widely and successfully marketed Celebrex throughout the  
28 United States by, among other things, conducting promotional campaigns that misrepresented the

1 efficacy of Celebrex in order to induce a widespread use and consumption. Celebrex was  
2 represented to aid the pain and discomfort of arthritis, osteoarthritis, and related problems.  
3 Defendants made misrepresentations by means of media advertisements, and statements  
4 contained in sales literature provided to Decedent's prescribing physicians.

5           62. Despite knowledge of the dangers presented by Celebrex, Defendants and  
6 Defendants' predecessors in interest, through their officers, directors and managing agents for the  
7 purpose of increasing sales and enhancing its profits, knowingly and deliberately failed to remedy  
8 the known defects of Defendants' product, Celebrex, and failed to warn the public, including  
9 Decedent, of the serious risk of injury occasioned by the defects inherent in Defendants' product,  
10 Celebrex. Defendants and their officers, agents and managers intentionally proceeded with the  
11 inadequate safety testing, and then the manufacturing, sale and marketing of Defendants' product,  
12 Celebrex, knowing that persons would be exposed to serious potential danger, in order to advance  
13 their own pecuniary interests. Defendants' conduct was wanton and willful, and displayed a  
14 conscious disregard for the safety of the public and particularly of Decedent.

15           63. In an elaborate and sophisticated manner, Defendants aggressively  
16 marketed Celebrex directly to consumers and medical professionals (including physicians and  
17 leading medical scholars) in order to leverage pressure on third party payors, medical care  
18 organizations, and large institutional buyers (e.g., hospitals) to include Celebrex on their  
19 formularies. Faced with the increased demand for the drug by consumers and health care  
20 professionals that resulted from Defendants' successful advertising and marketing blitz, third  
21 party payors were compelled to add Celebrex to their formularies. Defendants' marketing  
22 campaign specifically targeted third party payors, physicians, and consumers, and was designed  
23 to convince them of both the therapeutic and economic value of Celebrex.

24           64. Defendants represented that Celebrex was similar to ibuprofen and  
25 naproxen but was superior because it lacked any of the common gastrointestinal adverse side  
26 effects associated with these and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs ("NSAIDS"). For  
27 instance, NSAIDS can, in certain patients, cause gastrointestinal perforations, ulcers and bleeding  
28 with long-term use. Defendants promoted Celebrex as a safe and effective alternative that would

1 not have the same deleterious and painful impact on the gut, but that would be just as effective, if  
2 not more so, for pain relief.

3 65. Celebrex possessed dangerous and concealed or undisclosed side effects,  
4 including the increased risk of serious cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks, unstable  
5 angina, cardiac clotting, deep vein thrombosis, hypertension, and cerebrovascular events, such as  
6 strokes. In addition, Celebrex was no more effective than traditional and less expensive NSAIDs  
7 and, just like traditional NSAIDs, carried a risk of perforations, ulcers, and gastrointestinal  
8 bleeding. Defendants chose not to warn about these risks and dangers.

9 66. Defendants knew of these risks before the U.S. Food and Drug  
10 Administration (the "FDA") approved Celebrex for sale, but Defendants ignored, downplayed,  
11 suppressed, omitted, and concealed these serious safety risks and denied inefficacy in its  
12 promotion, advertising, marketing, and sale of Celebrex. Defendants' omission, suppression, and  
13 concealment of this important information enabled Celebrex to be sold to, and purchased, or paid  
14 for by, the Consumers at a grossly inflated price.

15 67. Consequently, Celebrex captured a large market share of anti-inflammatory  
16 drugs prescribed for and used by patients. In 2004 alone, sales of Celebrex exceeded \$2 billion,  
17 despite the significantly higher cost of Celebrex as compared to other pain relievers in the same  
18 family of drugs.

19 68. Because Defendants engaged in a promotional and marketing campaign  
20 that featured an advertising blitz directly targeted to consumers, that touted Celebrex as a safer  
21 drug than other drugs in its class, while uniformly failing to disclose the health risks of Celebrex,  
22 Defendants were able to justify pricing Celebrex significantly higher than the cost of generic  
23 aspirin. In reality, that price inflation was not justified. Had Defendants disclosed the truth about  
24 Celebrex, Defendants would not and could not have reaped the billions of dollars in Celebrex  
25 sales that were achieved as a direct result of the concealment, omission, suppression, and  
26 obfuscation of the truth.

27 69. The Defendants intentionally, deliberately, knowingly, and actively  
28 concealed, omitted, suppressed, and obfuscated important and material information regarding the



1 risks, dangers, defects, and disadvantages of Celebrex from Decedent, the public, the medical  
2 community, and the regulators. This concealment and omission was deliberate, knowing, active,  
3 and uniform, was intended to induce and maximize sales and purchases of Celebrex, and  
4 prevented Decedent from obtaining all the material information that would be important to their  
5 decisions as reasonable persons to purchase, pay for, and/or use Celebrex.

6 70. Defendants' systematic, active, knowing, deliberate, and uniform  
7 concealment, omissions, suppression, and conduct caused Decedent to purchase, pay for, and/or  
8 use Celebrex; and caused Decedent's losses and damages as asserted herein.

9 71. Had Defendants done adequate testing prior to approval and "market  
10 launch," the defendants' scientific data would have revealed significant increases in stroke and  
11 myocardial infarction amongst the intended population of Celebrex consumers. Adequate testing  
12 would have shown that Celebrex possessed serious side effects. Defendants should have taken  
13 appropriate measures to ensure that their defectively designed product would not be placed in the  
14 stream of commerce and/or should have provided full and proper warnings accurately and fully  
15 reflecting the scope and severity of symptoms of those side effects should have been made.

16 72. In fact, post-market approval data did reveal increased risks of clotting,  
17 stroke and myocardial infarction, but this information was intentionally suppressed by Defendants  
18 in order for them to gain significant profits from continued Celebrex sales.

19 73. Defendants' failure to conduct adequate testing and/or additional testing  
20 prior to "market launch" was based upon their desire to generate maximum financial gains for  
21 themselves and to gain a significant market share in the lucrative multi-billion dollar COX-2  
22 inhibitor market.

23 74. At the time Defendants manufactured, advertising, and distributed  
24 Celebrex to consumers, Defendants intentionally or recklessly ignored and/or withheld  
25 information regarding the increased risks of hypertension, stroke and/or myocardial infarctions  
26 because Defendants knew that if such increased risks were disclosed, consumers would not  
27 purchase Celebrex, but instead would purchase other cheaper and safer NSAID drugs.  
28



**CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF:**

**Negligence**

75. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

76. Defendants owed Decedent a duty to exercise reasonable care when designing, manufacturing, marketing, advertising, distributing, and selling Celebrex. This duty included the duty not to introduce a pharmaceutical drug, such as Celebrex, into the stream of commerce that caused users to suffer from unreasonable, dangerous or untoward adverse side effects.

77. At all relevant times to this action, Defendants owed a duty to properly warn Decedent and the Public of the risks, dangers and adverse side effects of their pharmaceutical drug Celebrex.

78. Defendants breached their duties by failing to exercise ordinary care in the preparation, design, research, testing, development, manufacturing, inspection, labeling, marketing, promotion, advertising and selling of Celebrex, including:

a. failing to use due care in the preparation and development of Celebrex to prevent the aforementioned risk of injuries to individuals when the drugs were ingested;

b. failing to use due care in the design of Celebrex to prevent the aforementioned risk of injuries to individuals when the drugs were ingested;

c. failing to conduct adequate pre-clinical testing and research to determine the safety of Celebrex;

d. failing to conduct adequate post-marketing surveillance and exposure studies to determine the safety of Celebrex;

e. failing to completely, accurately and in a timely fashion, disclose the results of the pre-marketing testing and post-marketing surveillance and testing to Decedent, consumers, the medical community, and the FDA;

1 f. failing to accompany Celebrex with proper warnings regarding all  
2 possible adverse side effects associated with the use of Celebrex;

3 g. failing to use due care in the manufacture, inspection, and labeling  
4 of CELEBREX to prevent the aforementioned risk of injuries to individuals who used Celebrex;

5 h. failing to use due care in the promotion of Celebrex to prevent the  
6 aforementioned risk of injuries to individuals when the drugs were ingested;

7 i. failing to use due care in the sale and marketing of Celebrex to  
8 prevent the aforementioned risk of injuries to individuals when the drugs were ingested;

9 j. failing to use due care in the selling of Celebrex to prevent the  
10 aforementioned risk of injuries to individuals when the drugs were ingested;

11 k. failing to provide adequate and accurate training and information to  
12 the sales representatives who sold Celebrex;

13 l. failing to provide adequate and accurate training and information to  
14 healthcare providers for the appropriate use of Celebrex; and

15 m. being otherwise reckless, careless and/or negligent.

16 79. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that Celebrex  
17 caused unreasonable and dangerous side effects which many users would be unable to remedy by  
18 any means, Defendants continued to promote and market Celebrex to consumers, including  
19 Decedent, when safer and more effective methods of pain relief were available.

20 80. Defendants were, or should have been had they exercised reasonable care,  
21 in possession of evidence demonstrating that Celebrex caused serious side effects. Nevertheless,  
22 they continued to market their products by providing false and misleading information with  
23 regard to the safety and efficacy of Celebrex.

24 81. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers such as Decedent  
25 would foreseeably suffer injuries as a result of their failure to exercise ordinary care as described  
26 above.

27 82. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' acts, omissions, and  
28 misrepresentations described herein, the Plaintiff and Decedent's siblings suffered loss of support

1 and services and endured mental pain and suffering and loss of consortium of their parent. The  
2 losses are permanent and continuing in nature. In addition, the estate suffered a loss of net  
3 accumulations due to the premature death of Decedent, and the personal representative incurred  
4 medical and funeral expenses for the burial and funeral services of the decedent. Decedent  
5 sustained serious cardiovascular injuries and death. Decedent required healthcare and services  
6 incurring direct medical losses and costs including care for hospitalization, physician care,  
7 monitoring, treatment, medications, and supplies.

8 83. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton,  
9 willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of  
10 consumers, including Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so  
11 as to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

12 84. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
13 compensatory damages, and exemplary and punitive damages together with interest, the costs of  
14 suit and attorneys' fees and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

15 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF:**  
16 **Strict Liability**

17 85. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs of this  
18 Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further alleged as follows:

19 86. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were suppliers of Celebrex,  
20 placing the drug into the stream of commerce. Celebrex was expected to and did reach Decedent  
21 without substantial change in the condition in which it was manufactured and sold.

22 87. Celebrex was unsafe for normal or reasonably anticipated use.

23 88. Celebrex was defective in design or formulation because when it left the  
24 hands of the manufacturer and/or supplier, it was unreasonably dangerous and more dangerous  
25 than an ordinary consumer would expect. Celebrex was also defective and unreasonably  
26 dangerous in that the foreseeable risk of injuries from Celebrex exceeded the benefits associated  
27 with the design and/or formulation of the product.  
28

1           89. Celebrex is unreasonably dangerous: a) in construction or composition; b)  
2 in design; c) because an adequate warning about the product was not provided; d) because it does  
3 not conform to an express warranty of the manufacturer about the product .

4           90. Celebrex as manufactured and supplied by Defendants was also defective  
5 due to inadequate warnings, and/or inadequate clinical trials, testing and study, and inadequate  
6 reporting regarding the results of the clinical trials, testing and study. Defendants failed to  
7 perform adequate testing before exposing Decedent to the medication, testing which would have  
8 shown that Celebrex had the potential to cause serious side effects including strokes like that  
9 which affected Decedent.

10           91. Celebrex as manufactured and supplied by Defendants was defective due to  
11 inadequate post-marketing warnings or instructions because, after Defendants knew or should  
12 have known of the risk of injuries from Celebrex, they failed to provide adequate warnings to the  
13 medical community and the consumers, to whom they were directly marketing and advertising  
14 Celebrex; and, further, it continued to affirmatively promote Celebrex as safe and effective.

15           92. Celebrex was manufactured, distributed, tested, sold, marketed, advertised  
16 and promoted defectively by Defendants, and as a direct and proximate cause of Defendants'  
17 defective design of Celebrex, Decedent used Celebrex rather than other safer and cheaper  
18 NSAIDs. As a result, Decedent suffered the personal injuries described above.

19           93. Information given by Defendants to the medical community and to the  
20 consumers concerning the safety and efficacy of Celebrex, especially the information contained in  
21 the advertising and promotional materials, did not accurately reflect the potential side effects of  
22 Celebrex.

23           94. Had adequate warnings and instructions been provided, Decedent would  
24 not have taken Celebrex as she did, and would not have been at risk of the harmful side effects  
25 described herein.

26           95. Defendants acted with conscious and deliberate disregard of the  
27 foreseeable harm caused by Celebrex.  
28



1           96. Decedent could not, through the exercise of reasonable care, have  
2 discovered Celebrex's defects or perceived the dangers posed by the drug.

3           97. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' acts, omissions, and  
4 misrepresentations described herein, the Plaintiff, and Decedent's siblings suffered loss of support  
5 and services and endured mental pain and suffering and loss of consortium of their parent. The  
6 losses are permanent and continuing in nature. In addition, the estate suffered a loss of net  
7 accumulations due to the premature death of Decedent, and the personal representative incurred  
8 medical and funeral expenses for the burial and funeral services of the decedent. Decedent  
9 sustained serious cardiovascular injuries and death. Decedent required healthcare and services  
10 incurring direct medical losses and costs including care for hospitalization, physician care,  
11 monitoring, treatment, medications, and supplies.

12           98. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton,  
13 willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of  
14 consumers, including Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so  
15 as to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

16           99. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
17 compensatory damages, and punitive and exemplary damages together with interest, the costs of  
18 suit and attorneys' fees and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

19                           **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF:**  
20                           **Breach of Express Warranty**

21           100. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs of this Complaint  
22 as if fully set forth herein.

23           101. Defendants expressly represented to Decedent and other consumers and the  
24 medical community that Celebrex was safe and fit for its intended purposes, that it was of  
25 merchantable quality, that it did not produce any dangerous side effects, particularly any  
26 unwarned-of side effects, and that it was adequately tested.

27           102. These warranties came in the form of:  
28

1 a. Defendants' public written and verbal assurances of the safety and  
2 efficacy of Celebrex;

3 b. Press releases, interviews and dissemination via the media of  
4 promotional information, the sole purpose of which was to create an increased demand for  
5 Celebrex, which failed to warn of the risk of injuries inherent to the ingestion of Celebrex,  
6 especially to the long-term ingestion of Celebrex;

7 c. Verbal and written assurances made by Defendants regarding  
8 Celebrex and downplaying the risk of injuries associated with the drug;

9 d. False and misleading written information, supplied by Defendants,  
10 and published in the Physician's Desk Reference on an annual basis, upon which physicians  
11 relied in prescribing Celebrex during the period of Decedent's ingestion of Celebrex, and;

12 e. advertisements.

13 103. The documents referred to above were created by and at the direction of  
14 Defendants.

15 104. Defendants knew or had reason to know that Celebrex did not conform to  
16 these express representations in that Celebrex is neither as safe nor as effective as represented,  
17 and that Celebrex produces serious adverse side effects.

18 105. Celebrex did not and does not conform to Defendants' express  
19 representations because it is not safe, has numerous and serious side effects, including unwarned-  
20 of side effects, and causes severe and permanent injuries.

21 106. Decedent, other consumers, and the medical community relied upon  
22 Defendants' express warranties.

23 107. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' acts, omissions, and  
24 misrepresentations described herein, the Plaintiff, and Decedent's siblings suffered loss of support  
25 and services and endured mental pain and suffering and loss of consortium of their parent. The  
26 losses are permanent and continuing in nature. In addition, the estate suffered a loss of net  
27 accumulations due to the premature death of Decedent, and the personal representative incurred  
28 medical and funeral expenses for the burial and funeral services of the decedent. Decedent

1 sustained serious cardiovascular injuries and death. Decedent required healthcare and services  
2 incurring direct medical losses and costs including care for hospitalization, physician care,  
3 monitoring, treatment, medications, and supplies.

4 108. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton,  
5 willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of  
6 consumers, including Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so  
7 as to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

8 109. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
9 compensatory damages, and punitive and exemplary damages together with interest, the costs of  
10 suit and attorneys' fees and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

11 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF:**  
12 **Breach of Implied Warranty**

13 110. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs of this Complaint  
14 as if fully set forth herein.

15 111. Defendants manufactured, distributed, advertised, promoted, and sold  
16 Celebrex.

17 112. At all relevant times, Defendants knew of the use for which Celebrex was  
18 intended and impliedly warranted the product to be of merchantable quality and safe and fit for  
19 such use.

20 113. Celebrex was not of merchantable quality and was not fit for its intended  
21 use, because it causes increased risk of serious cardiovascular and cerebrovasclar adverse events,  
22 including heart attacks, strokes and other serious and harmful adverse health effects.

23 114. Defendants breached the implied warranty that Celebrex was of  
24 merchantable quality and fit for such use in violation of Nevada law.

25 115. Defendants were aware that consumers, including Decedent, would use  
26 Celebrex for treatment of pain and inflammation and for other purposes.

27 116. Decedent and the medical community reasonably relied upon Defendants'  
28 judgment and expertise to only sell them or allow them to prescribe Celebrex only if it was indeed

1 of merchantable quality and safe and fit for its intended use. Consumers, including Decedent, and  
2 the medical community, reasonably relied upon Defendants' implied warranty for Celebrex.

3 117. Celebrex reached consumers, including Decedent, without substantial  
4 change in the condition in which it was manufactured and sold by Defendants.

5 118. Defendants breached their implied warranty to consumers, including  
6 Decedent; Celebrex was not of merchantable quality or safe and fit for its intended use.

7 119. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' acts, omissions, and  
8 misrepresentations described herein, the Plaintiff, and Decedent's siblings suffered loss of support  
9 and services and endured mental pain and suffering and loss of consortium of their parent. The  
10 losses are permanent and continuing in nature. In addition, the estate suffered a loss of net  
11 accumulations due to the premature death of Decedent, and the personal representative incurred  
12 medical and funeral expenses for the burial and funeral services of the decedent. Decedent  
13 sustained serious cardiovascular injuries and death. Decedent required healthcare and services  
14 incurring direct medical losses and costs including care for hospitalization, physician care,  
15 monitoring, treatment, medications, and supplies.

16 120. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton,  
17 willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of  
18 consumers, including Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so  
19 as to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

20 121. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
21 compensatory damages and punitive and exemplary damages together with interest, the costs of  
22 suit and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

23 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF:**  
24 **Fraudulent Misrepresentation & Concealment**

25 122. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs of this Complaint  
26 as if fully set forth herein.

27 123. Defendants' superior knowledge and expertise, their relationship of trust  
28 and confidence with doctors and the public, their specific knowledge regarding the risks and



1 dangers of Celebrex, and their intentional dissemination of promotional and marketing  
2 information about Celebrex for the purpose of maximizing its sales, each gave rise to the  
3 affirmative duty to meaningfully disclose and provide all material information about Celebrex's  
4 risks and harms to doctors and consumers.

5 124. Defendants made fraudulent affirmative misrepresentations with respect to  
6 Celebrex in the following particulars:

7 a. Defendants represented through their labeling, advertising,  
8 marketing materials, detail persons, seminar presentations, publications, notice letters, and  
9 regulatory submissions that Celebrex had been tested and found to be safe and effective for the  
10 treatment of pain and inflammation; and

11 b. Defendants represented that Celebrex was safer than other  
12 alternative medications.

13 125. Defendants made affirmative misrepresentations; and fraudulently,  
14 intentionally and/or recklessly concealed material adverse information regarding the safety and  
15 effectiveness of Celebrex.

16 126. Defendants made these misrepresentations and actively concealed adverse  
17 information at a time when Defendants knew or had reason to know that Celebrex had defects and  
18 was unreasonably dangerous and was not what Defendants had represented to the medical  
19 community, the FDA and the consuming public, including Decedent.

20 127. Defendants omitted, suppressed and/or concealed material facts concerning  
21 the dangers and risk of injuries associated with the use of Celebrex including, but not limited to,  
22 the cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and other serious health risks. Furthermore, Defendants'  
23 purpose was willfully blind to, ignored, downplayed, avoided, and/or otherwise understated the  
24 serious nature of the risks associated with the use of Celebrex in order to increase its sales.

25 128. The representations and concealment were undertaken by Defendants with  
26 an intent that doctors and patients, including Decedent, rely upon them.

1           129. Defendants' representations and concealments were undertaken with the  
2 intent of defrauding and deceiving Decedent, other consumers, and the medical community to  
3 induce and encourage the sale of Celebrex.

4           130. Defendants' fraudulent representations evinced their callous, reckless,  
5 willful, and depraved indifference to the health, safety, and welfare of consumers, including  
6 Decedent.

7           131. Decedent's physician and Decedent relied on and were induced by  
8 Defendants' misrepresentations, omissions, and/or active concealment of the dangers of Celebrex  
9 in selecting Celebrex treatment.

10           132. Decedent and the treating medical community did not know that the  
11 representations were false and were justified in relying upon Defendants' representations.

12           133. Had Decedent been aware of the increased risk of side effects associated  
13 with Celebrex and the relative efficacy of Celebrex compared with other readily available  
14 medications, Decedent would not have taken Celebrex as she did.

15           134. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' acts, omissions, and  
16 misrepresentations described herein, the Plaintiff, Decedent's siblings suffered loss of support and  
17 services and endured mental pain and suffering and loss of consortium of their parent. The losses  
18 are permanent and continuing in nature. In addition, the estate suffered a loss of net  
19 accumulations due to the premature death of Decedent, and the personal representative incurred  
20 medical and funeral expenses for the burial and funeral services of the decedent. Decedent  
21 sustained serious cardiovascular injuries and death. Decedent required healthcare and services  
22 incurring direct medical losses and costs including care for hospitalization, physician care,  
23 monitoring, treatment, medications, and supplies.

24           135. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton,  
25 willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of  
26 consumers, including Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so  
27 as to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.  
28

1           136. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
2       compensatory damages, and punitive and exemplary damages together with interest, the costs of  
3       suit and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

4                                   **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
5                                   **(Unjust Enrichment)**

6           137. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs of this  
7       Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

8           138. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were the manufacturers,  
9       sellers, and/or suppliers of Celebrex.

10          139. Decedent paid for Celebrex for the purpose of managing her pain safely  
11       and effectively.

12          140. Defendants have accepted payment from Decedent for the purchase of  
13       Celebrex.

14          141. Decedent did not received the safe and effective pharmaceutical product  
15       for which she paid.

16          142. It is inequitable and unjust for Defendants to retain this money because the  
17       Decedent did not in fact receive the product Defendant represented Celebrex to be.

18          143. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
19       equitable relief, the costs of suit and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as this Court  
20       deems just and proper.

21                                   **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
22                                   **(Violations of State Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Trade Practices Acts)**

23          144. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if they were  
24       fully set forth herein.

25          145. Defendants had a statutory duty to refrain from unfair or deceptive acts or  
26       practices in the sale and promotion of Celebrex to Plaintiff.

27          146. Defendants engaged in unfair, unconscionable, deceptive, fraudulent and  
28       misleading acts or practices in violation of all California's consumer protection laws, identified  
     below. Through its false, untrue and misleading promotion of Celebrex, Defendants induced

1 Decedent to purchase and/or pay for the purchase of Celebrex. Defendants misrepresented the  
2 alleged benefits and characteristics of Celebrex; suppressed, concealed and failed to disclose  
3 material information concerning known adverse effects of Celebrex; misrepresented the quality of  
4 Celebrex as compared to much lower-cost alternatives; misrepresented and advertised that  
5 Celebrex was of a particular standard, quality or grade that it was not; misrepresented Celebrex in  
6 such a manner that later, on disclosure of the true facts, there was a likelihood that Decedent  
7 would have switched from Celebrex to another NSAID and/or chosen not to purchase and/or  
8 reimburse for purchases of Celebrex; advertised Celebrex with the intent not to sell it as  
9 advertised; and otherwise engaged in fraudulent and deceptive conduct.

10 147. Defendants' conduct created a likelihood of, and in fact caused, confusion  
11 and misunderstanding. Defendants' conduct misled, deceived and damaged Decedent and  
12 Defendants' fraudulent, misleading and deceptive conduct was perpetrated with an intent that  
13 Decedent rely on said conduct by purchasing and/or paying for purchases of Celebrex. Moreover,  
14 Defendants knowingly took advantage of Decedent who was reasonably unable to protect her  
15 interests due to ignorance of the harmful adverse effects of Celebrex. Defendants' conduct was  
16 willful, outrageous, immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, unconscionable and  
17 substantially injurious to Decedent and offends the public conscience.

18 148. Decedent purchased Celebrex primarily for personal, family or household  
19 purposes.

20 149. As a result of Defendants' violative conduct, Plaintiff purchased and/or  
21 paid for purchases of Bextra that were not made for resale.

22 150. Defendants engaged in unfair competition or deceptive acts or practices in  
23 violation of Nevada law.

24 151. As a proximate result of Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions,  
25 Decedent and Plaintiff have suffered ascertainable losses, in an amount to be determined at trial.

26 152. Throughout the period described in this Complaint, Defendants repeatedly  
27 engaged in intentional misconduct characterized by trickery, deceit and a wanton, willful,  
28 conscious and reckless disregard of the health, rights and interests of the Decedent, and, in so



1 conducting itself, acted with oppression, fraud, and malice toward the Decedent. As a result of  
2 Defendants' indifference to and reckless disregard of the health and safety of Celebrex patients,  
3 they suffered both physical and economic harm, and all end-payors incurred economic damages.  
4 Accordingly, Defendants' conduct was highly reprehensible under controlling Supreme Court  
5 punitive damages authority, and Plaintiff is entitled to punitive and/or exemplary damages.

6 153. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' acts, omissions, and  
7 misrepresentations described herein, the Plaintiff, and Decedent's siblings suffered loss of support  
8 and services and endured mental pain and suffering and loss of consortium of their parent. The  
9 losses are permanent and continuing in nature. In addition, the estate suffered a loss of net  
10 accumulations due to the premature death of Decedent, and the personal representative incurred  
11 medical and funeral expenses for the burial and funeral services of the decedent. Decedent  
12 sustained serious cardiovascular injuries and death. Decedent required healthcare and services  
13 incurring direct medical losses and costs including care for hospitalization, physician care,  
14 monitoring, treatment, medications, and supplies.

15 154. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton,  
16 willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of  
17 consumers, including Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so  
18 as to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

19 155. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and seeks  
20 compensatory damages, and punitive and exemplary damages together with interest, the costs of  
21 suit and attorneys' fees and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests the following relief:

- 24 1. General damages in excess of the jurisdictional amount of this Court;
- 25 2. Consequential damages;
- 26 3. Disgorgement of profits;
- 27 4. Restitution;
- 28 5. Punitive and exemplary damages;

6. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as provided by law;

7. Recovery of Decedent's costs including, but not limited to, discretionary Court costs of these causes, and those costs available under the law, as well as expert fees and attorneys' fees and expenses, and costs of this action; and

8. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable in this action.

Dated: September 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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